Message Text

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ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 SCI-06 L-03 IO-14

INT-08 DLOS-06 CEQ-02 EPA-04 SMI-01 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 TRSE-00 EUR-25 STR-08 CIEP-02

CEA-02 SPC-03 H-03 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 250945Z MAR 74 FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0800

CONFIDENTIAL TOKYO 3895

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, SENV, JA

SUBJ: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: US BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE PRODUCTS

REF: STATE 051569

1. IN LIGHT COMMENTS PARA 1 REFTEL RE SUCCESS BOYCOTT IN US, EMBASSY SOMEWHAT SURPRISED AT SILENCE THIS END. JAPANESE PRESS, WHICH NORMALLY QUICK TO PICK UP ANY ACTIVITIES OF THIS NATURE, HAS NOT, TO EMBASSY KNOWLEDGE, MADE ANY REFERENCE TO BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE PRODUCTS IN US IN SUPPORT OF MOVES FOR CONSERVATION OF WHALES. WE HAVE ALSO HAD NO MENTION OF THIS PROBLEM FROM ANY OF OUR CONTACTS IN JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND NEITHER FOREIGN MINISTRY NOR MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY OFFICIALS HAVE BROACHED SUBJECT. REGIONAL FISHATT HAS LIKEWISE HAD NO COMMENT FROM EITHER OFFICIAL OR BUSINESS SOURCES ON THIS TOPIC.

2. AT THIS TIME OF INCREASED CONCERN OVER JAPAN'S TRADE BALANCE, DUE IMPACT INCREASED OIL COSTS, JAPANESE BUSINESS AND GOVERNMENT LEADERS CAN BE EXPECTED TO BE MOST SENSITIVE TO ANY THREAT TO JAPAN'S EXPORT TRADE. IN THIS CONTEXT, U.S. MARKET, WHICH ACCOUNTS FOR LARGE PERCENTAGE OF JAPAN'S EXPORTS, IS ONE THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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IS WATCHED CLOSELY. SHOULD BOYCOTT ASSUME PROPORTIONS WHICH

WOULD IMPACT SIGNIFICANTLY ON JAPANESE SALES IN U.S., EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT CONSIDERABLE PRESSURE WOULD DEVELOP WITHIN JAPANESE BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO REACH SOME COMPROMISE WITH USG OVER WHALE ISSUE. TO DATE WE HAVE NO INDICATION THAT BOYCOTT HAS GENERATED ANY SUCH PRESSURE. SHOESMITH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: WHALES, SPECIES PROTECTION, TRADE BALANCE, IMPORT CONTROLS, BOYCOTTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 25 MAR 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKY003895

Document Number: 1974TOKYO03895 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740063-0617

From: TOKYO

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740316/aaaaapht.tel

Line Count: 67

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION COA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: STATE 051569

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: GolinoFR

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 30 JUL 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <04 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: INTERNATIONAL WHALING COMMISSION: US BOYCOTT OF JAPANESE PRODUCTS

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To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005